

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 TOKYO 12954 250330Z
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 HEW-06 IO-14 MED-03 AID-05
/048 W

-----044309 250913Z /16

R 250311Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 465

UNCLAS TOKYO 12954

OES/APT/BMP FOR WILLIAM WALSH

DEPT PASS DHEW/PHS/OIH FOR DR. KING; PHS/NIH/NIAID FOR
DR. KRAUSE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TBIO, JA
SUBJECT: B-TYPE HEPATITIS

1. A GROUP OF 11 MEDICAL SCIENTISTS AND GYNECOLOGISTS IN TOKYO HAS REPORTEDLY DISCOVERED MECHANISM UNDER WHICH B-TYPE HEPATITIS VIRUS (HB VIRUS) IS PRENATALLY TRANSMITTED FROM MOTHER TO CHILD. RESERACH WAS UNDERTAKEN UNDER CONTRACT WITH TOKYO METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT.

2. GROUP EXAMINED 17,190 PREGNANT WOMEN IN TOKYO AND ULTIMATELY THEIR NEWBORN BABIES TO CHECK WHETHER THEY CARRIED HBE ANTIGEN, AND FOUND THAT 380 MOTHERS, OR 2.21 PER CENT OF THE MOTHERS EXAMINED, WERE VIRUS CARRIERS AND THAT 29.7 PER CENT OF THE VIRUS CARRIERS TRANSMITTED DISEASE TO THEIR NEWBORN BABIES. THE INFECTED NEWBORN BABIES ARE DESTINED TO BE LIFE-TIME CARRIERS OF THE VIRUS. THE VIRUS CARRIERS ARE APT TO DEVELOP CHRONIC INFLAMMATION OF LIVER, CIRRHOSIS OF LIVER OR LIVER CANCER. THROUGH THEIR DETAILED EXAMINATIONS, THEY FOUND THAT HBE ANTIGEN, HBE ANTIBODY AND DNA ENZYME

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IN BLOOD SERUM PLAYED DECISIVE ROLE IN THE INFECTION OF B-TYPE HEPATITIS.

3. GROUP CLAIMS THAT INFECTION OF HB VIRUS COULD BE PREDICTED BEFORE DELIVERY BY CHECKING VIRUS ACTIVITY IN MOTHER'S SERA. THEY SUGGEST USE OF INTERFERON TO CURB PROLIFERATION OF HB VIRUS IN SERUM, THEREBY

PREVENTING TRANSMISSION OF THE DISEASE FROM OTHERS
TO BABIES. ANIMAL TESTS ARE NOW UNDER WAY TO
DETERMINE WHETHER INTERFERON HAS SIDE-EFFECTS ON HUMAN
HEALTH.

4. FINDINGS WILL BE REPORTED AT WHO MEETING ON VIRAL
HEPATITIS TO BE HELD AT KUALA LUMPUR NEXT NOVEMBER.
MANSFIELD

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISEASES, MEDICAL RESEARCH
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decapton Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TOKYO12954
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770307-0054
Format: TEL
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770821/aaaaarqc.tel
Line Count: 70
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Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c187e852-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1480305
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: B-TYPE HEPATITIS
TAGS: TBIO, JA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c187e852-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009